Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the current Abstract with the following:

[[A m]]Mechanisms and methods for traversing a general trees are disclosed. A novel data structure for modeling a node that includes a unique node counter also is described. In certain embodiments of the inventions the unique node counter iscomprises a timestamp of sufficient granularity to render each timestamp in the tree unique. A[[The]] node counter, in conjunction with the lineage of a specified continuation node may be[[is]] used to locate an appropriate the correct starting point within a tree in a continuation call when the specified continuation node no longer exists in the tree. Certain portions of each node in the entire branch, typically referred to as a lineage, for the specified continuation node are used by the mechanism and methods. Typically the lineage for a particular node comprises the counter value, sibling pointer, and level of the node, its parent, its parent's parent, and so on all the way to the root node in the tree. The data structure for modeling a node may also include a parent pointer.